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UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 537th MEETING (CLOSED)

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 28 March 1990, at 3 p.m.

Acting President: Mr. AKSIN (Turkey)

CONTENTS

Adoption of the agenda

Consideration of the report of the President on the organization of the special plenary meetings in Namibia

Other matters

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIAL PLENARY MEETINGS IN NAMIBIA (A/AC.131/1990/SPM/CRP.1)

2. The ACTING PRESIDENT announced that the Government of the Republic of Namibia had agreed to host the special plenary meetings that the Council, at its previous meeting, had decided to hold in Namibia in April. The President of the Council had accordingly prepared the report contained in document A/AC.131/1990/SPM/CRP.1. He invited members to consider the report paragraph by paragraph, noting that all references to special plenary "meetings" should henceforth read special plenary "meeting".

Paragraphs 1 to 4

3. Paragraphs 1 to 4 were adopted.

Paragraph 5

4. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) said that the Council should explicitly recommend that delegations to the meeting be at the highest level, since it could not simply be assumed that they would be at that level.

5. Mr. KABIA (Secretary of the Council) said that the Secretariat had informed members that representation was expected to be at the highest level. It could not impose its wishes on them, however. Organizations outside the Council would also be represented, but they would simply send statements.

6. The ACTING PRESIDENT agreed that each State must decide for itself on its level of representation.

7. Mr. MOUSSA (Egypt) said that while the Council could not impose its wishes on a sovereign country, it could make a recommendation. He stressed the importance of representation at the highest level.

8. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said there was no need to repeat the earlier decision by which the Council had decided to hold a meeting at the highest level. As long as that decision stood, there was no need to change the paragraph.

9. The ACTING PRESIDENT agreed and noted that there had been high-level representation at Namibia's recent independence celebration. The meeting under consideration was only a ceremonial one to bring the Council's work to an end.

10. Paragraph 5 was adopted.

Paragraph 6

11. Mr. KABIA (Secretary of the Council) said it was his understanding that the Council would pay expenses only for the Secretary-General or his representative and not for the other guests mentioned in paragraph 6. An invitation had been extended to the Chairman of the Senate of the United Nations Institute for Namibia because he would have a contribution to make, but his expenses would not be paid by the Council. The guests mentioned in subparagraph (f) would pay their own expenses.

12. Ms. WICKES (Australia) said that, even if the Council was not paying their expenses, she would like to know who were the individuals referred to in subparagraph (g).

13. Mr. KABIA (Secretary of the Council) said the list had yet to be prepared.

14. Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria), supported by Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi), proposed that paragraph 6 should be redrafted to include, in subparagraph (c), an explicit reference to the Special Committee against Apartheid and the Special Committee of 24.

15. Mr. KABIA (Secretary of the Council) asked whether members wished the Secretariat to list all the organizations concerned, including those that were being invited to send messages.

16. The ACTING PRESIDENT, supported by Mr. UMER (Pakistan), said that it should be left to the President of Namibia, rather than the Council, to decide who would be invited to send messages.

17. Paragraph 6, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 7 and 8

18. Paragraphs 7 and 8 were adopted.

Paragraph 9

19. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that if a courtesy call was to be made on the President of Namibia, it should be made by all the members of the Council, not just the officers.

20. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) proposed that the entire paragraph be deleted. The question of a courtesy call should be left entirely to the discretion of the President of the Republic of Namibia.

21. Mr. UMER (Pakistan) said that he had no problem with that proposal.

22. Mr. MFULA (Zambia) also agreed with the proposal. It could in any case be assumed that the Government of Namibia had prepared a programme for the members of the Council.

23. The ACTING PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to delete paragraph 9.

24. It was so decided.

Paragraph 10

25. Replying to a question from Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), the ACTING PRESIDENT said he assumed that all delegations would be given an opportunity to speak.

26. Mr. BRISTOL (Nigeria) suggested that the last sentence of former paragraph 9 should be added to paragraph 10.

27. Paragraph 10, as orally amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 11 to 16

28. Paragraphs 11 to 16 were adopted.

Paragraphs 17 and 18

29. Ms. WICKES (Australia) appealed to the Secretariat to make every effort to provide all delegations with the documentation for the meeting before they left for Windhoek.

30. Paragraphs 17 and 18 were adopted.

31. The report of the President, as amended, was adopted.

32. The ACTING PRESIDENT proposed that the Drafting Committee of the Council should become the Drafting Committee of the special plenary meeting, on the understanding that it would be open-ended.

33. It was so decided.

Election of the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole of the special plenary meeting

34. Mr. MFULA (Zambia) nominated Mr. Aksin (Turkey) for the office of Chairman of the Committee of the Whole of the special plenary meeting.

35. Ms. WICKES (Australia), Mr. UMER (Pakistan) and Mr. VOICU (Romania) supported the nomination.

36. Mr. Aksin (Turkey) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee of the Whole of the special plenary meeting.

37. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) nominated Mr. Carnavali-Villegas (Venezuela) for the office of Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole.

38. Mr. Carnavali-Villegas (Venezuela) was unanimously elected Rapporteur of the Committee of the Whole.

OTHER MATTERS

39. Mr. VOICU (Romania) reported to the Council on the participation of the Council's delegation in the eighth session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. A special plenary meeting had been held at the session to celebrate the independence of Namibia. Two basic ideas had been stressed in the speeches made at that meeting: the world-wide rejoicing at the independence of Namibia, and the role played by the United Nations, particularly the role played by the Council for Namibia in ensuring adequate protection of the rights and interests of Namibia prior to its independence. A number of speakers had also given credit to the devoted work done by the Council with regard to the law of the sea.

40. In its statement, the Council's delegation had recalled the Council's participation in the process of the codification and progressive development of the law of the sea and had expressed confidence that the representatives of independent Namibia would contribute to its further strengthening. The delegation had also assured participants that it would ask the President of the Council to convey to the Government and people of Namibia the warmest congratulations of the Preparatory Commission on Namibia's accession to independence.

41. Mr. RIANOM (Indonesia) reported on the participation of the Council's delegation in the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5 to 9 March 1990. At the request of the Council's delegation, a report on recent developments in Namibia, the status of education there and the future requirements of the new Government in the field of education had been included in the statement made to the Conference by the representative of Mozambique on behalf of the States of southern Africa.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.